

CLOSE FIGHTING IS WAR'S BIG SURPRISE

German General Tells of Weird Effect Produced by Rifle Fire.

By KARL H. VON WIEGAND.

GRAND GENERAL HEADQUARTERS, IN FRANCE, Tuesday, Dec. 8.—(Via London.)—Short-range fighting, terrible in its destructiveness, is the greatest factor and the most important lesson of the present war.

This was the statement made to me by Chief Quartermaster General von Wild, at the German headquarters here, in discussing the various revolutionary changes in fighting methods since the opening of the world war.

"The short-range fighting is the greatest and most surprising lesson of the war," said General von Wild. "It has always been figured that infantry fighting in modern warfare would be at a range of more than 1,000 yards. Instead of this being true—and to the surprise of most military experts—it has developed that most of the fighting has occurred at a range of from 50 to 150 yards.

"With the latest model of magazine rifles and machine guns, it is possible to allow the enemy to approach very close and then open a terrific and deadly fire.

"I consider this to be the greatest factor and the most important lesson of the war."

Until a week ago, when he was appointed as quartermaster general, von Wild commanded a division in the field. He described graphically the fearful slaughter of the British in short-range fighting. The British soldiers, he declared, fought with lion-like bravery, advancing against the German rifles and guns with a display of almost superhuman courage.

"I have been deeply touched," the general said, "by going over the battlefields and finding scores of dead English soldiers presenting the unusual spectacle of lying on their backs with their arms outstretched heavenward."

General von Wild said he could not account for the sudden stiffening of the bodies which resulted in the arms of the dead remaining in the position, presenting such a weird and pathetic picture.

I arrived at the general headquarters here after a week's tour of the front in this section.

During my visits to various points of the German line, I was within fifty-five miles of Paris at one time.

The point of the German line, nearest Paris, mentioned by von Wiegand as fifty-five miles from the French capital, is south of Noyon in the angle formed by the Oise and the Aisne rivers.

SOUTHERN CONGRESS WANTS IMMIGRANTS

Committee Is Chosen to Devise Means of Attracting Aliens to Unworked Lands.

A committee of five, representing the Southern Commercial Congress, will remain in Washington this week to work out some practical plan of action by which a constructive immigration work can be initiated and conducted for the interests of the agricultural South.

The committee was appointed at the close of the immigration conference, held yesterday, by the congress to discuss the best method of developing Southern lands by proper distribution of foreign labor. By the time the congress meets for its annual convention in Muskogee, Okla., next spring, it is thought a comprehensive plan will have been worked out in detail by the committee.

The members of the committee are T. H. Preston, chairman, of the Tennessee Commercial Congress; J. H. MacRae, of the Virginia Commercial Congress; W. H. McLean, of the North Carolina Commercial Congress; J. H. McLean, of the South Carolina Commercial Congress; and J. H. McLean, of the Georgia Commercial Congress.

The only exception to the rule in the Treasury applies to the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and the division of issue of the Treasury's office, which will work the half-holidays preceding Christmas and New Year Day, but will be given a full holiday December 26, as well as on Christmas.

Marine Draftsmen Hold Banquet and Election

G. W. Nussbaum will head the Washington navy yard branch of the American Society of Marine Draftsmen during the ensuing year. He was elected president of the organization prior to the third annual banquet of the branch at the Continental Hotel last night.

Other officers elected were: George Thoma, vice president; O. L. Jones, secretary; Charles Walsh, treasurer; and W. C. Thom, H. K. Griffith, and W. E. Rose, board of governors.

Citizens Will Meet On District Suffrage

As a part of the movement to obtain suffrage for the District, there will be a meeting in the Public Library next Wednesday evening, with Senator R. L. Owen of Oklahoma, Congressman Robert Cramer of Ohio, and Dr. Harvey W. Wiley as speakers.

The gathering will be under the auspices of the citizens' committee of forty.

KITS FOR FRENCH AND GIRLS WHO AID



Copyright by Underwood & Underwood. New York Society Girls Packing "Lafayette Kits" With Comforts for French Soldiers.

HONOR LAFAYETTE IN RELIEVING SUFFERING

New York Society Folk Lead Work of Sending Winter Kits to French Soldiers.

NEW YORK CITY, Dec. 12.—The Vanderbilt Hotel is the scene of unusual activity. Pretty society belles, and equally charming society matrons whose names are to be found in the social registers and blue books, are busily engaged in making up "kits" containing woolen gloves, woolen socks, woolen underwear, heavy mufflers, handkerchiefs, abdominal belts and soap.

These "kits" are being sent to the French soldiers in the trenches. Two dollars will send one kit to France, where it is forwarded to the trenches. The recipient of the kit feels that he is receiving the personal sympathy of the sender, for inclosed in each kit is the name of the person who has paid the \$2 to cover the cost of sending it.

Repay Lafayette's Aid. In the darkest days of the Revolution Lafayette came to the aid of the American Colonists; now the Lafayette fund will endeavor to do what it can for the French soldiers who are fighting for their own country.

The executive committee of the fund, which is headed by Mrs. John Jacob Astor, Mrs. William Astor, and Mrs. Robert L. Bacon, and Mrs. Archer M. Huntington, whose husband is the treasurer of the fund, and to whom, in care of the Vanderbilt Hotel, all contributions are sent.

Appeal Tells of Need. In appealing for funds to carry on the work, the executive committee says: "The winter along the Aisne—along a battle line extending 100 miles, in trenches of frozen earth, the men of France and her allies, covered with ice and driven by half and sleet, are fighting for the ideals of democracy. It is not only shells that kill, but there is the suffering from cold and exposure. Will you help relieve that suffering?"

Bryan Poses With Girl For Motion Picture Film

Secretary Bryan forsook the cares of office for a particularly interesting and proceeded to the wide approach on the southern side of the State Department and posed for a moving picture camera. The role assumed by the Secretary was that of a statesman being interviewed by a pretty girl with a camera.

The Secretary smiled broadly and walked toward the camera, and then both faced the machine and smiled some more.

Still smiling, the girl "interviewed" the Secretary. The film for the camera was produced a camera. The Secretary pretended to pose for this, too, and the "sitting" was ended.

Thirty-six Cities Enter For Shooting Competition

With organizations representing thirty-six cities participating yesterday in a shooting competition for the championship of the United States and a trophy presented by the War Department has started. The competition at present is between the individual members of the shooting organizations for positions on the teams which will represent their clubs in the finals.

Each club will be represented by a team of ten members.

Bartsch Heads Biologists.

Paul Bartsch has been elected president of the Biological Society of Washington. The other officers elected at a meeting at the Cosmos Club last night were: A. D. Hopkins, W. P. Hay and Miss Mary J. Rathbun, vice presidents; Marcus M. Lyon, Jr., recording secretary; W. L. McAtee, corresponding secretary; and W. W. Cook, treasurer. Dr. Hugh M. Smith, Vernon Bailey, William Palmer, N. Hollister, and J. W. Gidley were chosen members of the council.



Kit, Showing Contents, Which Will Be Sent to Some French Soldier, With Name of Donor.

U. S. SAVES \$366,341 ON SIX DESTROYERS TO SEEK HELP HERE

Contracts will be signed by Secretary of the Navy Daniels and representatives of three shipbuilding firms early this week for the construction of six destroyers, provision for which was made in the last naval appropriation bill. A sixth destroyer will be built at the Mare Island navy yard at San Francisco, to cost \$264,700, or nearly \$50,000 below the lowest private bidder.

In announcing the award of contracts for two destroyers for \$285,000 each to the Fore River Shipbuilding Company, Works, and one for \$239,000 to the Cramp Shipbuilding Company, Secretary Daniels announced that the average cost of the five vessels was \$23,282 less per vessel than the corresponding cost of destroyers built a year ago, or a total saving of \$366,341.

As much as Congress limited the amount on each destroyer to \$350,000, Secretary Daniels said that if the authorization had been for six or more destroyers, instead of a flat six, another vessel could have been built for less than the corresponding cost of the Treasury. In appropriations for this year the Secretary announced that he will ask Congress to appropriate for destroyers on the same basis as submarines, for which a request has been made for "eight or more."

Contracts will be awarded by Secretary Daniels Tuesday for the construction of eight submarines for which appropriation was made by Congress last year.

Hoosiers to See Magic. "A half hour of magic" is to be the feature of the regular meeting of the Indiana Society of Washington in the Breantano building, Twelfth and F streets northwest, Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock. Good music and a brief study of Indiana authors will complete the program.

"77"

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Princeton Students Seek \$100,000 by New Year

PRINCETON, Dec. 12.—Members of the sophomore class in Princeton University are endeavoring to raise \$100,000 by the first of the year for the proposed university dining hall. Mrs. Russell Sage has promised \$100,000 to Princeton provided the sum necessary to complete the new dining hall, which will cost \$200,000, is subscribed by January 1. The second year men have set out to raise \$100,000.

Fifty contributions have already been received, totaling \$25,000.

Hazing Legalized if Held Within Bounds

SYRACUSE, N. Y., Dec. 12.—Legalized hazing at Syracuse University will supplement the indiscriminate practice of this feature of college life, according to a decision reached by the senior council at its meeting this morning, when thirty sophomores were placed in strict probation for their part in recent alleged hazing, at which several victims were injured.

So far as is known this is the first time in the history of American universities that this innovation has been attempted.

Unfrosted Minister Loses Place in Store

MONTREAL, Dec. 12.—Floor Walker Harold M. Folsom, deposed rector of St. John's Episcopal Church, of Port-au-Prince, N. H., who fled following charges concerning his friendship with one of the eighteen-year-old parishioners, has been discharged from his position at the store of Goodwin's, Ltd., in St. Catherine street.

The discharge came in the middle of the day's work, the floor walker being summoned to the office of W. H. Goodwin, president of the company, when his story became known in the city and store.

Tablet Dedicated to Navy Flyer's Memory

ANNAPOLIS, Md., Dec. 12.—A tablet dedicated to the memory of Ensign William D. Billingsley, the only aviator of the United States navy who met death as a result of aerial experiments, presented by his classmates, the class of '10, has been placed in the memorial room of Bancroft Hall at the Naval Academy. Its chief embellishment is the engraving of an aeroplane.

Ensign Billingsley fell to his death in the waters of Chesapeake bay near Annapolis on June 20, 1912. Lieut. John T. Towers, who was with him, escaped.

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<p>SUIT CASES Genuine Cowhide Leather Suit Cases. Straps all around; pure Irish linen lining; extra large sizes included; some with sewed corners; some with bellows sides. Made to retail for \$8.00. Berman's Sale Price, \$5.00</p>	<p>Genuine Leather Suit Cases, 200 bought by us. Cowhide loops sewed on case; shirt pocket straps and catches. 24-inch size. Made to retail for \$4.50. Berman's Sale Price, \$2.25</p>
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<p>Genuine Sole Leather Cases, made of imported cowhide; 4 oz. stock, heavy straps all around; some with two locks. A few with hand sewed cases. Made to retail for \$12.00. Berman's Sale Price, \$6.95</p>	<p>About 300 High-grade Suit Cases, made of extra heavy cowhide. Hand sewed, straps extra wide all around; silk, linen and leather linings; black, tan and brown leathers. Made to retail for \$20.00. Berman's Sale Price, \$9.95</p>
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<p>Party Cases A special lot of Party Cases. All colors, all shapes, all leathers. Made to retail for \$5.00. Berman's Sale Prices 95c, \$1.95, \$2.95</p>	<p>Toilet Cases A high-grade order of Fitted Toilet Traveling Cases, for men or women. These goods were ordered specially by a large house in Florida, and were canceled without notice. Made to retail from \$3 to \$20. Berman's Sale Prices \$1.50 to \$15</p>
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<p>300 Steamer Trunks 32 to 40 Inches Special Extra Heavy Trunks, two straps, fiber bound, heavy slats; 4 slats on bottom. Greatest value ever shown in Washington. \$10.00 actual value. Choice ANY SIZE \$4.50</p>	<p>BRIEF CASES A lot of Brief Cases, made up for a New Orleans leather store; 4 oz. sole leather; one, two, three, and four pocket styles; double folding styles; brown and tan; made to retail up to \$5. Berman's Sale Prices: Single Pocket \$2.00, Double Pocket \$2.25, Three Pocket \$2.50, Four Pocket \$3.00, Double Folding \$3.50</p>
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<p>LADIES' HANDBAGS About 200 Ladies' Hand Bags. All leather lined. Some with fittings inside; latest handle. Made to retail for \$2.50. Berman's Sale Price, \$1.00</p>	<p>MEN'S "BILL BOOKS" IN ALL LEATHERS VALUES UP TO \$5 50c, \$1.00, \$1.50, \$2.00, \$2.50</p>
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